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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A compact camera module, comprising:  
a lens unit including a plurality of lens;

and

an image pickup unit including an image  
10 pickup device, said image pickup unit being  
independent from the lens unit and attached to a  
bottom of the lens unit,  
wherein  
the image pickup device is disposed in a  
15 substantially closed space in the image pickup unit.

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2. A compact camera module comprising a  
lens unit including a lens and a lens holder holding  
the lens therein and an image pickup unit attached  
to the lens unit, wherein

the image pickup unit comprises:  
25 a circuit board;  
an image pickup device on the circuit  
board;

a cover member arranged on the circuit  
board to cover the image pickup device; and  
30 an optical filter arranged with respect to  
the cover member to face the image pickup device,  
wherein

the image pickup device is disposed in a  
substantially closed space formed by the circuit  
35 board, the cover member, and the optical filter.

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3. The compact camera module as claimed  
in claim 2, wherein

5 the cover member includes an air hole to  
make the substantially closed space in communication  
with the outside;

the lens unit includes a ventilation  
channel;

10 the air hole is in communication with the  
ventilation channel.

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4. The compact camera module as claimed  
in claim 3, wherein

the ventilation channel is formed between  
a wall of a cutout of the lens and the lens holder.

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5. The compact camera module as claimed  
25 in claim 4, wherein

the ventilation channel has an air filter  
disposed therein.

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6. The compact camera module as claimed  
in claim 1, wherein

the image pickup unit is asymmetric with  
35 respect to a central line.

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7. The compact camera module as claimed  
in claim 2, wherein

5 the image pickup unit is asymmetric with  
respect to a central line.

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8. The compact camera module as claimed  
in claim 2, wherein

a grounding terminal is formed on a side  
surface of the circuit board, said grounding  
15 terminal including a portion extending to an upper  
surface of the circuit board; and

the cover member is arranged to be in  
contact with the portion of the grounding terminal  
extending to the upper surface of the circuit board.

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9. An image pickup unit for use in  
25 conjunction with a lens unit in a compact camera  
module, comprising:

a substantially closed space; and  
an image pickup device disposed in the  
substantially closed space.

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10. An image pickup unit for use in  
35 conjunction with a lens unit in a compact camera  
module, comprising:

a circuit board;

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an image pickup device on the circuit board;

a cover member arranged on the circuit board to cover the image pickup device; and

5 an optical filter arranged with respect to the cover member to face the image pickup device, wherein

the image pickup device is disposed in a substantially closed space formed by the circuit board, the cover member, and the optical filter.

15 11. The image pickup unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein

the cover member includes an air hole to make the substantially closed space in communication with the outside.

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12. The image pickup unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein the image pickup unit is asymmetric with respect to a central line.

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13. The image pickup unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein

a grounding terminal is formed on a side surface of the circuit board, said grounding terminal including a portion extending to an upper surface of the circuit board; and

the cover member is arranged to be in

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contact with the portion of the grounding terminal extending to the upper surface of the circuit board.

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14. A lens unit for use in conjunction with an image pickup unit in a compact camera module, comprising:

10           a lens having a cutout; and  
            a lens holder that holds the lens therein,  
            wherein  
            a ventilation channel is formed between a  
wall of the cutout and the lens holder.

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15. The lens unit as claimed in claim 14,  
20           wherein the ventilation channel has an air filter  
disposed therein.

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16. A method of producing a compact camera module, comprising the steps of:

            forming an image pickup unit wherein an  
image pickup device is disposed in a substantially  
30           closed substantially closed space; and  
            attaching the image pickup unit to a lens  
unit.

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17. The method of producing the compact

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camera module as claimed in claim 16, wherein  
the step of forming the image pickup unit  
comprises the steps of:

installing an image pickup device on a  
5 circuit board;

covering the image pickup device with a  
cover member to form the substantially closed  
substantially closed space; and

arranging an optical filter with respect  
10 to the cover member to face the image pickup device.

18. The method of producing the compact  
camera module as claimed in claim 17, wherein  
the cover member includes an air hole to  
make the substantially closed space in communication  
with the outside.

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19. A method of producing an image pickup  
unit for use in conjunction with a lens unit in a  
compact camera module, the method comprising the  
steps of:

installing an image pickup device on a  
circuit board;

30 covering the image pickup device with a  
cover member to dispose the image pickup device in a  
substantially closed space; and

arranging an optical filter with respect  
to the cover member to face the image pickup device.

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20. The method as claimed in claim 19,  
wherein the cover member includes an air hole to  
5 make the substantially closed space in communication  
with the outside.